

VIRGINIA HUD LINES

MAY 2006

E-Briefs from the Richmond Office of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
800/842-2610, extension 3742 Bill Miles, Director www.hud.gov/virginia

HUD HOMES DISCOUNTED FOR HURRICANE EVACUEES

To assist families displaced by the Gulf Coast hurricanes attain homeownership, Federal Housing Commissioner Brian Montgomery has announced that HUD will give evacuees the opportunity to buy HUD-owned properties at a discount. Effective week of May 1st, most newly-listed HUD homes to be offered exclusively to evacuees for five days at 10 percent below fair market value. Buyers must be FEMA-registered, use FHA mortgage or pay cash and occupy it for at least 12 months. HUD will pay the real estate broker's fee.

!!! CALLING ALL LENDERS !!!

Want to know how the "new" FHA is making homebuying easier and more affordable? Then join the Virginia Mortgage Lenders Association, HUD's Philadelphia Homeownership Center and HUD Richmond for an all-day FHA Lenders Update at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg on Tuesday, May 23rd. Register now at www.hud.gov/event_registration/index_2.cfm?state=VA

DEADLINES

Like Spring flowers, deadlines for HUD competitive grants are "popping up" in May. Applications for 2006 Rural Housing & Economic Development funds are due by May 12th, for Housing Choice Voucher Family Self Sufficiency grants by May 16th, for Fair Housing Initiative Program grants by May 17th, for Historically Black Colleges & Universities grants by May 19th, for Continuum of Care grants by May 25th and for Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities grants by May 26th. For more, visit www.grants.gov

BRIEF BRIEFS

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns names Ellen Davis, a management consultant from New Kent County, as Director of USDA Rural Development in Virginia. . DHCD Director Bill Shelton says he's "thrilled" Wachovia has "recommitted as a statewide banking institution for the Virginia Individual Development Accounts program" that provides matching funds to low-income families who are saving to buy homes. . Citing it as a "model of successful revitalization," American Public Health Association selects Better Housing Coalition's Winchester Greens community in Chesterfield County as one of just five "blue ribbon communities" in the country. . Bank of America Foundation accepting applications for two, \$200,000 Neighborhood Excellence grants open to groups in Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Richmond, Roanoke and Hampton Roads "working to create vibrant neighborhoods". . *Relocate-America* magazine names Charlottesville and Virginia Beach as among 100 best places to live. . Chesapeake Redevelopment & Housing dedicates 40-unit, "green" Oakdale Square complex. . . . Telling *Goochland Gazette* she felt like "I'm on Extreme Makeover," Grace Combs and her three children break ground on their new home, the 11th to be built by Goochland Habitat for Humanity. . Call 804/783-6726 or e-mail gail.braham@vhda.com to re-register for VHDA's *Creative Housing for 21st Century* workshops at Shenandoah University in Winchester May 23rd and 24th.

!!! CUT & SAVE !!!

Want to cut your agency's energy bills 10 percent? Join HUD Richmond and DHCD for 2006 Energy Action Summit on May 10th and 11th at VHDA in Richmond. Space is limited, so please register now at www.hud.gov/event_registration/index_2.cfm?state=VA.

BRIEF BRIEFS TOO

HUD report to Congress on handling of 9,254 Fair Housing complaints in 2005 finds rise in complaints from people with disabilities. . Main Street programs in Bedford, Berryville, Culpeper, Franklin, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Luray, Lynchburg, Manassas, Marion, Radford, Staunton and Warrenton win 2006 Milestone Awards for "helping bring new life to downtowns". . Governor Kaine names 21 members to Olmstead Board to address "challenges concerning community integration of Virginians with disabilities". . Hampton Roads REALTORS set June 21st for trade show in Chesapeake. . Virginia Association of Housing & Community Development Officials holds summer conference in Virginia Beach May 14th to 16th. . Community United in Faith honors Ted Edlich of Total Action Against Poverty in Roanoke. . Hampton Redevelopment & Housing breaks ground for six new homes Olde Hampton area. . HUD Secretary Jackson and National Association of Home Builders set July 1st due date for 2006 "Best in American Living" design award. . Mary Mumford elementary school raises \$50,000 for Richmond Habitat for Humanity. . USDA awards Giles County \$1.1 million in loans and grants for Route 100 water project. . *Daily Progress* reports Legal Aid Justice Center completes community drive to transform 70-year-old Rock House in Charlottesville from "blighted building to a national treasure". *Fredericksburg Free Lance Star* says Caroline County wins \$1.5 million DHCD Indoor Plumbing grant to rehabilitate 25 homes and trailers in Dawn. . Department of Labor opens competition for Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program grants at www.grants.gov. . Rodney Taylor named Amherst County Administrator while George Nester steps down as Floyd County Administrator and Bob Stripling retires as Staunton City Manager. . Enterprise Foundation to issue RFP for Green Communities planning & construction grants week of May 1st at www.greencommunitiesonline.org. . Virginia Main Street celebrates its 20th anniversary, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc. its 35th and Lynchburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority its 50th.

VHDA HIKES LIMITS

The Virginia Housing Development Authority has increased income and price limits. New limits for homes financed by its Flexible Alternative programs vary from \$99,600 to \$135,400 for three person households, depending on location, and its maximum statewide loan limit is now \$417,000. Sales price limits under its First-time Homebuyer program now range, depending on location, from \$225,100 to \$408,100 and the maximum income limits now ranges from \$73,000 to \$100,000. The higher limits, says Janice Burgess of VHDA, "will give more Virginians the opportunity to take advantage of VHDA's favorable loan rates to purchase that first home."

GRANTWRITING & MORE. . .

If you're with a faith- or community-based organization interested in learning how to seek HUD and other Federal funds, attend the free, two-day Grantwriting & More workshop offered by HUD Richmond and the City of Winchester, May 24th and 25th in Winchester. To register, contact Anne Davis a 800/842-2610, extension 3741, or at anne_davis@hud.gov

DON'T FORGET

Register at www.phar.typepad.com or call 434/984-3255 to attend Virginia Poverty Law Center's June 9th "Save our Housing, Save our Homes" statewide conference for residents of low-income housing at First Baptist Church in Charlottesville.

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